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**Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions**

# Assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia

## Report of the Secretary-General

*Summary*

Somalia and its people continue to suffer from years of internal strife and political instability combined with periodic drought and flooding, making them, despite their remarkable resilience, among the poorest and most vulnerable people on earth. International humanitarian agencies still provide, or assist in providing, the vast majority of basic services to the country, putting continued demands on the limited pool of financial resources. Areas of particular concern regarding funding include the education, health, water and sanitation, and economic recovery sectors.

The highest priorities for the remainder of 2003 include containing the spread of HIV/AIDS, increasing the enrolment of children in school, strengthening protection frameworks, providing basic services for vulnerable communities, and strengthening field coordination to maximize the impact of scarce resources.

Considerable progress has been made in achieving the goals and objectives of the common humanitarian action plan for 2003, which broadly seeks to save lives and improve livelihoods; to expand access to basic services; to assist in the integration and protection of displaced populations, minorities, refugees returning from exile and other vulnerable groups; and to support good governance and the rule of law, peace-building and economic recovery.

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The present report concludes that, despite the significant progress made during the reporting period, the volatile security situation and lack of funding continue to hamper humanitarian recovery and development programmes in Somalia, leading to increased vulnerability within Somali communities.

Member States are urged to support programmes through the consolidated appeals process and the Trust Fund for Peace-Building in Somalia, which are aimed at assisting Somali communities to rebuild, to reconcile their differences and to work towards peace.

# I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted in compliance with General Assembly resolution 57/154 of 16 December 2002, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures for the implementation of the resolution and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session. The report reviews the current and prevailing conditions in Somalia for the period from 22 May 2002 to 22 May 2003 in relation to humanitarian relief and economic and social rehabilitation, taking into consideration the assistance provided by the United Nations and its partners. It also draws attention to progress made over the past year and focuses on priority areas for assistance according to expected developments.

# II. Socio-economic situation

## A. Political and security situation

2. President Daniel arap Moi inaugurated the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)-sponsored Somali National Reconciliation Conference at Eldoret, Kenya, on 15 October 2002. Many Somali leaders, political figures and civil society representatives attend the ongoing Conference, currently being held in Mbagathi, near Nairobi. The Conference is aimed at creating a broad-based all-inclusive government for Somalia while maintaining the sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of the country. My Representative and the United Nations Political Office for Somalia continue to actively monitor and support the reconciliation process, while the United Nations country team and its partners have intensified operational efforts to contribute to peace-building and reconciliation inside Somalia.

3. The first phase of the Conference resulted in the signing of the Declaration on Cessation of Hostilities and the Structures and Principles of the Somalia National Reconciliation Process on 27 October 2002 (see S/2002/1359, annex). That was followed in December by two agreements by Somali leaders on restoration of security and normalcy in the city of Mogadishu. The parties committed themselves to the facilitation of humanitarian access and humanitarian space for the international aid community. However, in my reports on Somalia of February and June 2003 (S/2003/231 and S/2003/636), I noted with concern the numerous reports of violations of the ceasefire by its signatories.

4. The second phase of the peace talks has involved discussion and adoption by consensus of the reports of the six reconciliation committees, covering federalism and a provisional charter; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; land and property rights; economic recovery, institution-building and resource mobilization; conflict resolution and reconciliation; and regional and international relations. The third and final phase will discuss power sharing and the formation of a new government as reconciliation efforts continue inside Somalia.

5. After closely monitoring the situation, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) delegation has resumed regular flights, suspended at the start of war, which has allowed the return of international staff from ECHO implementing partners to Somalia.

6. While relative stability prevails and has improved in the northern regions, Somalia continues to suffer from violence and armed conflict throughout much of the southern and central areas. In the early part of 2003, fighting affected the Bay, Middle Juba, Mudug and Lower Shabelle regions, as well as Mogadishu. Tensions have also limited access to the Sool, Sanaag, Middle Shabelle and Gedo regions.

7. The heaviest conflict has been around the once stable humanitarian base of Baidoa, where fighting among the factions of the Rahanwein Resistance Army (RRA) have forced international aid staff and a number of the Somali community to leave the town. In addition, clan conflicts around Bu'aale in the Middle Juba region have claimed scores of lives. Access of United Nations international staff to Mogadishu remains restricted owing to ongoing clan conflict and criminal activity. Mogadishu is home to an estimated 20 per cent of the Somali population, including 150,000 internally displaced persons, many of whom have been displaced for over a decade.

8. While the southern and central regions remain largely characterized by violence and armed conflict, security has improved in the Juba regions, in particular in the area of Kismayo, where local leaders have created a relatively secure operating environment.

9. "Somaliland" continues to stabilize, and 38 international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and 11 United Nations agencies continue to work in this region in an increasingly coordinated manner. The first peaceful multi-party presidential elections were held on 14 April 2003.

10. In "Puntland", conflict in 2002 that affected the access of international staff to the area has been resolved through negotiation, and a peace agreement was signed in May 2003 between the incumbent president and the opposition. This and a memorandum of cooperation negotiated with the "Puntland" administration has allowed humanitarian aid work to continue and for the United Nations system and its partners to take steps to expand operations there in support of peace-building, as well as to revitalize coordination mechanisms.

11. Meanwhile, the Panel of Experts established to collect information on violations of the arms embargo, in its report to the Security Council of 25 March 2003 (S/2003/223), presented evidence on the continued flow of weapons and ammunition supplies to and through Somalia from sources outside the country, in contravention of the arms embargo. Through its resolution 1474 (2003) of 8 April 2003, the Council decided to re-establish the Panel of Experts for six months to continue investigating violations of the arms embargo. The strengthening of the implementation of the embargo is pertinent for an improvement of the operating environment of humanitarian and developmental support in southern and central Somalia.

## B. Humanitarian issues

12. Continued fighting within Somalia has repeatedly disrupted the provision of humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance to a significant proportion of the population, most of which is already facing destitution, malnutrition and restricted or complete lack of access to even the most basic social services.

13. Some 400,000 Somalis remain refugees, while another estimated 300,000 to 370,000 are long-term internally displaced persons. The latter continue to live in congested and unsanitary conditions, lacking access to basic services and subjected to rape and other human rights violations from armed elements in and around the camps. However, during the reporting period, the United Nations operational agencies and their partners have continued their work and, where possible, have intensified activities inside Somalia related to the delivery of humanitarian relief assistance to vulnerable groups.

14. In terms of food production, Somalia has benefited from two good rainy seasons, which have generally reduced acute food security problems. Overall cereal production reached a post-war high in March 2003. However, areas of vulnerability remain in some northern regions. Insecurity has adversely affected livelihoods in some southern areas, particularly surrounding Baidoa and Buurhakaba in the Bay region, and in Bu'aale and Jilib in the Lower and Middle Juba regions, due to reduced access to farmland and harvests.

## C. Economic issues

15. As part of the work of the World Bank/United Nations Development Programme (UNPD) Somalia Watching Brief Programme to monitor socio-economic developments in conflict, household survey data are currently analysed to compile basic socio-economic data, including family income and expenditure. This is complemented by a survey on health and reproductive statistics supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The project is developing local institutional capacity to monitor poverty by establishing poverty monitoring and assessment technical units within functional administrations. A major benchmark for this project will be the production of a Millennium Development Goals report in 2003, which will support the preparation of an interim poverty strategy paper with the participation of Somali administrations to the extent possible.

16. UNDP and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) have supported the northern ports of Berbera and Boosaaso in developing and strengthening facilities and local management capacity. Somali authorities are now managing both ports, and UNDP continues to support two vocational training centres, responding to private sector opportunities for employment.

17. Somalia is in "non-accrual status" with the World Bank and has not produced any lending activity since 1991. However, Somalia is one of the four low-income countries under stress adopted for priority intervention jointly by UNDP and the World Bank Group. The cost of interventions in the areas of support to macroeconomic data analysis and dialogue, creation of an enabling environment for the livestock and meat industry, coordinated action plan to address HIV/AIDS issues and capacity-building for skills development/centres of training will be shared by the World Bank ($4.6 million from its Post-Conflict Fund), UNDP ($1.3 million) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) ($0.4 million).

18. Since 11 September 2001, many countries have placed severe restrictions and/or bans on the remittance of foreign currency to Somalia using their informal *hawala* remittance system. Remittances are the largest foreign currency earner in

Somalia, estimated at approximately $750 million to $1 billion per annum. UNDP has encouraged the establishment of a transparent and accountable *hawala* system by advocating on their behalf to the authorities of the various host countries and by conducting workshops both in Somalia and abroad. Since UNDP has gotten involved, Norway has agreed to lift its ban, while the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Department for International Development) has agreed to co-sponsor a workshop on this issue with UNDP in London this summer.

19. The ban imposed on the export of livestock from Somalia due to the existence of Rift Valley fever has had a major impact on the economy and especially the livelihoods of pastoralists all over the country. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and UNDP have been working jointly to remove the ban on chilled meat and livestock through several missions to the Gulf of Aden and by supporting an initiative for the establishment of a common livestock organization that could regulate the industry through an improved system of disease surveillance, inspection and certification, especially targeting livestock and meat products for export. In April 2003, a meeting in Dubai secured broad support from municipalities in the United Arab Emirates, Somali authorities and the business sector.

20. A labour-creation project of the International Labour Organization (ILO) has led to short-term employment opportunities through the rehabilitation of economically viable infrastructure. Projects initiated to date include capacity-building for the Somaliland Roads Authority, community involvement in several local drainage construction projects and a community clean-up project in Mogadishu.

21. The International Civil Aviation Organization's Civil Aviation Caretaker Authority for Somalia, in cooperation with UNDP, continued to operate the Flight Information Centre in Nairobi to provide for the safe conduct of air transport operations in the airspace allocated to Somalia, as well as air-traffic and associated safety-related services at a number of airports in Somalia.

# III. United Nations assistance in Somalia

## A. Food security and rural development

22. Close collaboration continues among all partners involved in eradicating hunger. The Food Security Assessment Unit of FAO continues to provide the aid community with high-quality food security and nutritional analyses. Inter-agency assessments are frequently mounted by the Food Security Assessment Unit, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the World Food Programme (WFP) to address humanitarian crises in an optimal way.

23. Food contributions have enabled the United Nations to sustain the lives of the most vulnerable as well as to reduce food insecurity to a large extent. During 2002, WFP distributed a total of 13,485 metric tons of food commodities reaching some 987,195 beneficiaries through relief, rehabilitation and social support activities. There was a marked increase in emergency relief distributions in 2002, due to the acute drought and failure of the 2001 rains in Gedo and the north-east. Thus 28 per cent more beneficiaries were reached than in 2001. In 2003, WFP distributed a total

of 3,210 tons of food commodities for some 187,920 beneficiaries in Somalia in various programmes. Total WFP distribution to April 2003 was 12,225 tons.

24. NGOs have also continued to play a vital role in food distribution. CARE, for example, delivered a total of 1,260 tons in the Bay, Bakool, Hiiraan and Middle Shabelle regions as food for work and as relief food in the Gedo region. Regular support is provided to 12 supplementary feeding centres and 3 therapeutic feeding centres.

25. WFP supported food-for-work activities in the agricultural and water sectors, which assisted the vulnerable populations in maintaining and enhancing agricultural activities through clearing, preparing and protecting farmland in addition to rehabilitating water catchments. During 2003, WFP assisted some 97,500 beneficiaries with 1,487 tons of food in community-based programmes.

## B. Health and nutrition

26. Contributions to the health and nutrition sector have helped to reduce the population's vulnerability to disease. UNICEF and WHO are the lead agencies in immunization activities, including the expanded programme of immunization, which have resulted in a reduction in child mortality. It is estimated that the national coverage for measles and diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis/polio was up to approximately 40 per cent by the end of 2002. More than 97 per cent coverage was achieved during the national immunization days, targeting approximately 1,383,000 children per round.

27. In the first quarter of 2003, United Nations agencies and their partners immunized about 1.23 million children against polio and another estimated 850,000 received vitamin A supplements. Four additional tuberculosis centres were introduced, in Wanle Weyne, Kismayo and Bu'aale, as well as two in Mogadishu, thus spreading the use of the effective directly observed treatment strategy.

28. WFP provides food to the supplementary feeding centres through UNICEF-supported centres. This intervention has also helped to reduce malnutrition rates from a 20 per cent global rate in October 2001 to 14.8 per cent in Bakool in September 2002. Meanwhile, WFP continues to provide food commodities in support of the therapeutic feeding centres operated by Action contre la faim in Mogadishu.

29. With regard to maternal health, UNICEF and WHO have provided regular support to mother and child health clinics through the provision of equipment and supplies in order to increase their capacity.

30. In an effort to aggressively address the spreading of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, it has become apparent that it is necessary to establish the extent of the problem and to develop a concerted inter-agency strategy to prevent the epidemic from taking hold in Somalia. In this respect, United Nations agencies and their partners continued to support activities aimed at raising awareness of HIV/AIDS in Somalia. Twelve sentinel sites have been supported in three zones, and sexually transmitted disease kits and drugs were provided to those sites. UNFPA has made available medical drugs to treat sexually transmitted infections to 15 sentinel sites for six months.

31. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) launched a public awareness campaign based on the links between HIV/AIDS and female genital mutilation, while the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) continued activities aimed at raising awareness in "Somaliland" of the increasing risk of exposure of women to HIV/AIDS as well as the gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS and preventive care.

32. UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF and WHO jointly rehabilitated and equipped the Hargeysa Health Training Institute. This institute trains much needed medical personnel and thus contributes considerably to the improvement of health services. In January 2003, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and WHO organized a training workshop on instructional technology for 13 nursing tutors from the Hargeysa Institute of Health Sciences, Somali Nursing Institute (Boosaaso) and the SOS Hospital (Mogadishu).

## C. Water and sanitation

33. The manner in which water projects are designed and supported by the international community can often be instrumental in fostering tolerance within communities. To this end, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) continued to work in close partnership with local authorities in Burco to increase water production and the sustainability of water systems for the town and within returnee communities in partnership with UNDP.

34. Likewise, UNHCR provided emergency support to the Hargeysa water supply system to increase water production and keep the system operational, benefiting approximately 350,000 people, including returnees and internally displaced persons. UNICEF completed the planning and delivery of supplies for an urban water system in Marka. When complete, the system will provide water to an estimated 35,000 people in this conflict-affected area.

35. UNHCR has rehabilitated and improved the water systems in various locations in the Awdal region and in Qoryooley. To further improve the access to water for humans as well as livestock, UNHCR has rehabilitated a total of 80 dams, reservoirs, wells and boreholes in the Awdal, West Galbeed, Togdheer, Bari and Nugaal regions. In Boorama town, UNICEF is concluding the installation of a major urban water system benefiting 130,000 people from two communities. Encouraged by the vibrant self-help initiatives in the development of Armo town in the Bari region, UNICEF and UNHCR jointly provided a borehole and a water-distribution system to this fast-growing community.

36. Agencies and donors continue to work closely to promote private sector management, investment and public oversight of urban water systems. This has included the establishment of and the provision of technical support to a local water enterprise in Gaalkacyo to manage and ensure appropriate internal guidelines for project operations.

## D. Education

37. UNESCO and UNICEF are the main United Nations agencies working in the field of primary formal and informal education. Moreover, during the reporting

period, UNHCR constructed and rehabilitated 33 primary schools and 4 secondary schools and provided furniture to 40 schools in the main areas of refugee return. The most significant achievement in the education sector has been the creation and distribution of lower primary school textbooks and education kits for all operational schools as well as the finalization of the manuscripts for grade 5 and 6 textbooks in six subjects.

38. Attention is also being focused on adult non-formal education following a needs assessment in May 2003. Lack of funding against the consolidated appeals process has disrupted or delayed the implementation of several critical activities, such as the finalization of grade 6, 7 and 8 textbooks, the training of teachers and instructors and the provision of support to vocational training and adult non-formal education.

39. A teacher training college in Hargeysa has been established with 270 trainees (170 boys and 100 girls). Fifteen college tutors were given two months of in-service training and the college was supplied with resources and learning materials. In addition, the first phase of standardized in-service training was implemented for about 6,500 primary teachers and head teachers, exceeding the targets set. The identification of a core team of trainers, school supervisors and curriculum developers, together with the ongoing efforts of development partners to gradually build towards official and recognized certification for teachers, is a critical development in the education programme, as it is beginning to fill the void of trained educators and to lead to sustainable and high-quality education. To this end, UNHCR rehabilitated Armoud University in Boorama for the use of teacher training.

40. UNESCO leads in vocational training activities. In an effort to support the provision of quality training, 56 vocational centres were surveyed, and managers from some of them were trained in the management of the centres. Collaboration between the centres and the business community was established in a number of towns, and 11 syllabuses were distributed to vocational centres throughout Somalia.

41. During last quarter, a joint ILO/UNDP action plan was prepared for the formation of a regional technical unit for local economic development. A significant achievement has been the launch on a trial basis of an employment-intensive project in Mogadishu using a community-contracting model that is directly employing 600 people (70 per cent of whom are women).

## E. Human rights and gender

42. Significant progress has been made in ensuring the participation of women in peace-building. However, deep-rooted gender discrimination in the traditional socio-cultural structures of Somali society, together with frequent misinterpretations of the role of women in relation to Islam, remain considerable barriers to women's empowerment. UNIFEM is supporting the participation of Somali women leaders in IGAD initiatives. It provided training in the areas of leadership and information and communication technology to key women's NGOs in "Somaliland", "Puntland" and Mogadishu in order to support their participation at the IGAD Reconciliation Conference and in the local elections in Somaliland.

43. UNHCR continued to support the Gaalkacyo Education Centre for Peace and Development so as to enhance the role of women in peace-building and to strengthen the awareness of and respect for women's rights, gender equality and harmful traditional practices. In particular, there are continued efforts to promote awareness of the protection of girls against female genital mutilation through various peer groups.

44. In the field of human rights, the United Nations country team has identified protection and human rights as one of the four key priority themes for its work in 2003. Consequently, a United Nations theme group has been established to develop a framework for action in which the country team can engage in advocacy, human rights monitoring, capacity-building, strengthening a protective environment and institutions and the provision of basic services to vulnerable communities.

45. A child protection study is currently being undertaken by UNICEF, Save the Children Fund (United Kingdom and United States of America), Norwegian Peoples' Aid and UNHCR. The study is consolidating both qualitative and quantitative data on the situation of children from particularly vulnerable groups and will identify strategies necessary to strengthen the protective environment for all children in the country. The ensuing programme will emphasize the capacity needs of local partners and will particularly involve youth and women's groups.

46. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, in collaboration with UNICEF and others, is conducting a pilot assessment of the needs of internally displaced persons and returnees in Kismayo with respect to protection and livelihood. This is an innovative approach intended to enable a multi-sectoral, multi-agency response and involve close collaboration with local authorities to assist them in meeting their responsibilities for the protection of civilians and, in particular, internally displaced persons. Humanitarian policy workshops are also being planned for various authorities in the country, in which the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (see E/CN.4/1998/Add.2) will be promoted. Furthermore, the Somalia Aid Coordination Body has established a rule of law and protection working group, which will help to strengthen coordination and collaboration among international and local partners in those fields.

## F. Repatriation and reintegration

47. Despite many setbacks, conflict in Somalia has declined over the past five years. As a result, official refugee camps are closing and Somali refugees from the camps are settling in their home areas. It is forecast that the repatriation of Somali refugees from Ethiopia to northern Somalia will be completed by December 2004, except for a small residual caseload of refugees, mainly from southern Somalia. Considerable progress is also being made in the process of voluntary repatriation from Djibouti; 25,000 refugees from Ethiopia and 5,000 from Djibouti will be repatriated in 2003.

48. The return in 2002 of more than 32,000 Somali refugees, mostly to "Somaliland", allowed them to participate in peace-building and reconstruction efforts and to exercise their right to vote in the municipal elections held in December 2002, as well as in the presidential elections in April 2003. In mid-May 2003, the first flights from the refugee camps in Kenya to north-eastern Somalia commenced. In 10 flights from Daadaab, Kenya, to Gaalkacyo and Boosaaso,

UNHCR staff have accompanied 534 refugees, who returned to their homeland after 12 long years in exile.

49. Although these interventions have helped communities to absorb returning refugees with reduced competition over scarce resources and have thus contributed to peace and stability, the gap between needs on the one hand and available services and income-generation opportunities on the other remains wide and continues to be a concern.

50. Progress has also been made with regard to the provision of basic services to returnees, internally displaced persons and host communities. UNDP provided basic social services through its Reintegration of Returning Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in Somalia programme. UNDP implemented 18 quick-impact projects to address urgent water, sanitation, health, education and shelter needs, of which 14 are complete.

51. Similarly, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees implemented more than 160 quick-impact reintegration projects during 2002 in "Somaliland", "Puntland" and Mogadishu and its environs, concentrating on the education, water, health and agriculture/income-generating sectors.

## G. Development programmes

52. In September, the country team finalized a common strategic framework for humanitarian and development activities: the United Nations Joint Action and Recovery Plan for Somalia. The plan will enhance coordination in humanitarian, recovery and development programming.

53. The new UNDP Rule of Law and Security programme has started implementing activities in "Somaliland" and "Puntland" in the areas of rule of law (judiciary, law enforcement and human rights); small arms control; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; psychosocial initiative; and mine action. Special efforts have been made in the judiciary component to restore expertise and the administrative capabilities of the justice system through training.

54. The Puntland Development Research Centre conducted workshops focusing on the special legal context in Somalia. Through the Academy for Peace and Development, 44 police officers were given human rights training. A vital component of the programme is the inclusion of trained female police and custodial officers. In "Somaliland" the Rule of Law and Security programme has supplied equipment to police stations and provided training to police officers.

55. The small arms control component seeks to promote public awareness and community participation in small arms control and reduction. The registration of weapons in the police force has begun and armouries have been rehabilitated to foster proper control over police weapons as well as training on safe storage and handling.

56. Activities in the area of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration include capacity-building and the provision of support to the National Demobilization Commission, to the Ministry of Finance relating to demobilization issues and to the demobilization of the police, army and custodial personnel through a partnership with the German Agency for Technical Assistance. The mine-action component of

the programme provided for the training of 24 Somali Mine Action Centre staff in "Somaliland". Moreover, a landmine impact survey has been completed, with the final report expected in July 2003.

57. Through a joint project of UNICEF and a Mogadishu-based NGO, 120 former child soldiers have been rehabilitated and reintegrated into their communities and have benefited from a programme of vocational training, conflict resolution and trauma counselling. This has been achieved through engagement with the local private sector. The project will be replicated in Mogadishu, Marka and Kismayo. In a similar project, UNESCO provided enterprise-based training in literacy, numeracy and vocational skills to 450 militia in Mogadishu, 86 per cent of whom are now in gainful employment.

58. The Civic Education for Peace project, managed by UNESCO, has organized eight workshops to train members of its network and local NGOs on issues of conflict resolution, human rights and gender. Some 3,956 members of the community were trained.

## H. Coordination and security

59. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs is expanding its field presence through the recruitment of additional staff in country. Its primary objectives are to strengthen field coordination in collaboration with the Somalia Aid Coordination Body (SACB); to negotiate and maintain humanitarian access; to promote humanitarian policies, including the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement; to ensure that the needs and rights of internally displaced persons and other vulnerable communities are being met; and to manage information. SACB has established a secretariat in Hargeysa to allow this process to develop in "Somaliland". The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs also chairs the SACB Humanitarian Response Group to ensure a rapid, appropriate and coordinated response to emergencies.

60. The Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator, in cooperation with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, continues its efforts to exploit new opportunities for expanded humanitarian operations in stable areas. The United Nations security office has also improved the United Nations emergency communication system in Somalia by installing more high-frequency radio systems and VHF repeaters and by standardizing the frequencies used on all VHF/short-range radios.

61. The United Nations humanitarian coordinator has negotiated humanitarian access by directly engaging with clan and faction leaders in Mbagathi, Kenya, and by approaching representatives of the leaders as well as civil society, business and religious leadership in the field. To this end, the resident coordinator/humanitarian coordinator and representatives of the country team undertook several missions focusing on access issues in the first quarter of 2003. These missions are part of an ongoing process to increase humanitarian space in the country, which requires a concerted effort at all levels of leadership.

## I. Assistance provided by Member States

62. The implementation by the United Nations of humanitarian and development programmes in Somalia is made possible through donor contributions. For the 2003 consolidated inter-agency appeal for Somalia, $71.5 million is requested. However, as at 29 May 2003, funding through the consolidated appeals process was low in virtually all sectors, with only 25 per cent of total requests covered. With major ongoing humanitarian operations in other countries, there is concern that donor funds and attention will be drawn away from Somalia. Efforts to initiate new programmes and maintain the pace of existing ones may be jeopardized if the requirements outlined in the consolidated appeals process are not met in a timely manner.

63. Furthermore, the following contributions have been received for the Trust Fund for Peace-Building in Somalia during the period under review: Ireland, $34,669; Italy, $536,150 and Norway, $836,533.

64. To achieve peace and stability in Somalia, the international community needs to remain fully engaged. Although dismally low, human development indicators have remained steady for the past several years, indicating the positive effect of humanitarian aid and development assistance in keeping the situation stable.

65. The revised appeal requirement remains modest at only $71.5 million. Donors are urged not to let the present and future demands in Iraq jeopardize the progress achieved in Somalia.

# IV. Conclusions

66. **Somalia remains one of the poorest countries in the world and continues to present a complex challenge to humanitarian and development initiatives. About 350,000 internally displaced persons are still living in desperate conditions and have no access to international assistance or protection. Chronic food instability has exacerbated the plight of the poorer groups, especially in drought-prone areas. Deterioration in the security situation has resulted in United Nations and other international agencies losing access to large areas, and vulnerable Somalis are prevented from rebuilding their livelihoods in a sustained manner.**

67. **Against this backdrop, the United Nations, in collaboration with implementing partners, continues to deliver humanitarian aid and development assistance in many areas and remains strongly committed to assisting Somalia. However, the low donor response to the consolidated appeals process prevents United Nations agencies from fully addressing Somalia's emergency needs. Member States are therefore urged to actively support humanitarian recovery and development activities in Somalia through the consolidated appeals process and other mechanisms.**

68. **The United Nations, with the support of the international community, will continue to work in support of national reconciliation and social and economic development in Somalia, employing an incremental approach of increased engagement. This approach is ultimately the most useful tool for providing humanitarian and development support. While continuing to provide assistance**

**in secure areas, the United Nations will also undertake inter-agency peace-building strategies aimed at strengthening communities and encouraging reconciliation between rival factions.**

69. **Finally, as the humanitarian emergency in Somalia persists, it is recommended that further reports on humanitarian activities and economic and social rehabilitation efforts in Somalia continue to be submitted to the General Assembly on a yearly basis.**